

Mr. ALLEN's Vindication;

OR;

REMARKS upon a late Scandalous PAMPHLET,

Entituled,

A strange and New Discovery, &c.

5. June. 1700.

Sir,

HAVING lately perus'd a Scandalous Pamphlet, reflecting on Mr. Allen Ordinary of Newgate; I thought my self oblig'd, being a Member of the Church of England, to enquire of several credible Persons, the true Grounds and Reasons for such Reports. And being convinc'd that Malice and Envy were the Sources from whence such impure Streams flow'd, I thought it but Just and Christian-like, to publish to the World the Matter as it appear'd to me. But first I beg Mr. Allen's Pardon, especially since I am assur'd he is now writing his own Defence at large, so that I ought to leave it to his more ingenious Pen. Lampoons and Libels so much in Fashion in this witty Age, are a ready way to murder any Person's Reputation; and indeed the Nature of true Virtue is commonly such, that as the Flame ever bears its Smoak, and the Body its Shadow, so the brightness of Vertue never shines, but hath Disdain or Envy waiting upon it.

But to come to the Point. I find the Chief stress of the Matter is ground'd upon Mr. Allen's being suppos'd to be the Person, who prevail'd with Jones to Swear against Capt. Newey at his Tryal. But according to the best Account I can receive from such Circumstances and Persons as are least liable to Mistake, the Matter of fact is truly Thus: Mr. Allen, according to Custom, a little before the Sessions begins, Visits the Prisoners, and exhorts them to prepare for another World, and such as are Evidences to speak the Truth without Favour or Affection, telling them the Nature of an Oath and what it is. Mr. Charles Newey happened to be with one Jones alias Ambrell in the Master's side, when Mr. Allen came to Visit, and he was reading a Paper to Newey, being the Contents of an Oath he was to swear against Mrs. Newey his Sister-in-Law in Holbourn. Newey read and heard the Exhortation, and it was the first time Mr. Allen ever saw Jones. Presently after this, Jones writes a Letter to Justice Ellis, who committed him, importing that he had Business of Great Consequence, and desir'd to see him. Upon this Justice Ellis went to an adjacent House, and sent for him, where he acquainted him, that he was very sorry for what he had done, and was willing to confess the Truth, which was, that Newey was to give him ten Guineas to swear High Treason against his Sister, viz. That he actually saw her Coin Half Crowns, and that he was to put them off; whereas indeed he never saw Mrs. Newey at all, till such time he had been Suborn'd by the Captain. That he the said Jones went before Sir Robert Jefferies, and swore the same by the Name of Ambrell, being perswaded to it by the Captain, that they might have the better Pretence to carry on their Matters, by having two Witnesses to one Fact. That he was also to swear himself to be the Husband of one Hannah Goodridge, to whom Newey had been married some Years before, and that he left her because she would have poison'd him. For the Truth of this, I must refer my self to the Worshipful Justice Ellis, who lives near St. Giles's Church.

A small time after Newey himself was committed Prisoner to Newgate, and being in the Press-Yard, insinuates himself into the Company of Mr. Allen, and frequently importun'd him to go to his Sister-in-Law, whom Mr. Allen had never seen, having himself at that time a Wife and Purchase of Mr. Allen's prevailing with Jones to be an Evidence against him, as he pretends in his Pamphlet. At length being prevailed upon by frequent Entreaties, Mr. Allen went to his Sister in behalf of the said Newey, being accompanied by Capt. Isaac, who lives in Holbourn, and others of Newey's Relations and Acquaintance. She return'd for Answer, that she could do nothing without Advice of Counsel. After this, Mr. Newey writes a Letter to Mr. Allen, the Original whereof is now in Mr. Allen's Hands, and contains what followeth.

Dear SIR,

NOT knowing any one readier to serve a Gentleman in Distress than your self, and having but few Friends, occasion my giving you this Trouble, to beg for God's sake you'll assist me, by Speaking or Doing what you think proper to the Recorder or Lord Mayor, or with any other Person; which Favour, I will rather die than not Acknowledge with the Hazard of ten thousand Lives, if I had them, who am, and always was by Inclination,

Dear Sir,

From the Press-Yard:

Your most humble Servant to Command, whilst

Superfcrib'd, To the Reverend
Dr. Allen at his Lodgings:
Present.

CHAR. NEWEY.

Mr. Allen

Mr. *Allen* was his Friend at that time, and did what in him lay to serve him; and I cannot but Note how well he Requires him for it. That I pass by in short, and only observe in the Whole, that it appears Mr. *Allen* was a perfect Stranger to Mrs. *Newey* at the time this Discovery was made to Justice *Ellis*; and therefore, what he would infer from it, being built upon a wrong Foundation, do's utterly fall to the ground. As to what is said concerning Mr. *Allen's* being an Evidence against him, there is no more in it, than that the Court, upon *Newey's* Tryal, ask'd *Jones* how he came to discover the Matter to Justice *Ellis*. He told them he was convinc'd of the Danger of taking a false Oath by the Exhortation of Mr. *Allen*, a little before the Sessions began, which was the same time the Captain was present, as he own'd at his Tryal. The Court desir'd Mr. *Allen* to declare upon Oath, whether he had made such Exhortation, and he answer'd, Yes, which is all the Evidence Mr. *Allen* ever gave, notwithstanding he makes so great a Noise about it in his Pamphlets.

The 2d thing Mr. *Allen* is charged with, is taking Money from *Joseph Fisher* and *John Davis* lately Executed, under pretence of saving their Lives. The Truth I find to be this. *Mary Fisher*, Wife of *Joseph Fisher*, came to Mr. *Allen* about Eleven of the Clock, the Day before the Execution, and gave him a Petition, and put 2 Guineas in his Hand, entreating him with many Tears, to put her in a way to get a Reprieve for her Husband. To which Mr. *Allen's* Answer was, that he could do her no Service therein, and was unacquainted with those things, and so gave her the Money back again. On *Saturday, May 25th* between 6 and 7 in the Afternoon, *Mary Fisher* came again to Mr. *Allen*, and told him, that as she was going through *Newgate*, one of the Prisoners call'd to her, and told her, that Capt. *Newey* in the *Press-Tard*, would speak with her. Accordingly she went, and after some Discourse, he desir'd her to swear before a Magistrate, that Mr. *Allen* defrauded her of 2 Guineas, under Pretence of saving her Husband's Life, which, as she said, she refus'd; and in order to get from him, promis'd to return in 2 Hours. Instead of returning she went directly to Mr. *Allen*, and acquainted him with *Newey's* Intention, and voluntarily made an Affidavit of the Truth thereof. Mr. *Harvey*, a Gentleman of Reputation, who lives in *Red-Lion-Fields*, drew up the Affidavit, and read it to her distinctly and deliberately. She replied, it was very true, and so sign'd it. Mr. *Harvey's* Clerk went along with her before Judge *Gould*; his Clerk ask'd her whether she had heard the Contents read, and she said Yes, and that they were very true, and are as followeth.

Mary Fisher of the Parish of *Srepney* in the County of *Middlesex*, late Wife of *Joseph Fisher*, deceased, maketh Oath, that she this Deponent, did apply her self to Mr. *Allen*, Ordinary of *Newgate*, to put her in a way to get a Reprieve for her Husband a Prisoner in *Newgate*, then under Sentence of Death, and gave him 2 Guineas; but that he the said Mr. *Allen*, told her, he could do her no Service therein, for he was unacquainted with those Concerns, and gave her the 2 Guineas again.

Jurat May 25.
Coram me.

H. Gould.

The Mark of *M. Mary Fisher.*

The Day following being *Sunday* Mr. *Allen* acquainted *Newey* with what *Fisher* had told him, and read him the Affidavit; he was so concern'd, that he sent for the Woman the next day, and told her Mr. *Allen* had abus'd her, and prevail'd with her so far, that at his Request she went before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, and depos'd that Mr. *Allen* had forced her to take the said Oath before Judge *Gold*. Whereas Mr. *Harvey* and his Clerk did affirm and they were ready to depose that Mr. *Allen*, did not go with her, nor stir out of the Chamber when she made the aforesaid Affidavit, his Chambers being in *Fleetstreet*, and the Judges in *Chancery-Lane*; which in the Opinion of every unprejudic'd Person that I have convers'd with, do's fully enough clear the Reputation of Mr. *Allen* as to that Point; tho' it is an unhappy Circumstance for a Minister to have to do with Persons of such profligate Consciences, as will Swear and then Forswear, for a small Gratuity.

I find Mr. *Allen* accus'd also with taking 40 s. from *John Davis*, who was lately executed; as also 20 from his Wife. I have enquir'd into this Matter, and find no Evidence but *Davis's* his Wife, who only says, that she heard her Husband say so. I am unwilling to reflect on the Dead; but 'tis well known what a Person this *Davis* was. It seems he was a Minister's Son in the North, near the Place where Mr. *Allen* was born, and desired him with great Earnestness not to give any Account of his Disaster to his Parents by Letter, his true Name being *Shirley*; and upon this account sent 20 s. to Mr. *Allen*, to buy him a Mourning Ring by his Wives Hand, which Mr. *Allen*, in my Opinion, very imprudently return'd her at the Request of the Lord Mayor; and especially, seeing he has discharg'd that painful and laborious Office a Year and 3 Quarters, and has receiv'd but one Quarters Salary of the Whole, as I am inform'd by several.

Thus, I have given a true Account of the Matters of Fact as they are in themselves, and can be Attest'd by Persons of unquestionable Reputation, and shall only add, that what I find in another Paper, concerning *Brabazon's* giving Mr. *Allen* Money, has no appearance of Truth, he being now a Convict in *Newgate*, that lies for Transportation; and I am very well assur'd that Mr. *Allen* has formerly paid this Man's Fees out of meer Charity, and so set him at Liberty once before.

I am Yours A. B.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Next Week will be published a short Account of the Life and Conversation of the pretended Capt. *Charles Newey*, writ by a Person well known to him.